

The dangerous consequences of the loss of locally owned news stations is demonstrated by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. In this example we see what happens when station ownership is consolidated in the hands of a few.

Allowing a company like Sinclair to use its power of ownership to influence an election is an attack on democracy. Intelligent and informed discourse is a necessity for our political system to function properly. Passing off an anti-Kerry documentary as news just before election day is the best example of exercise of power over the public interest.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.